

## The Connecticut legislature's bipartisan task force on gun violence:

One thing that we must all agree on is that Newtown was a tragedy of immense proportion. No one should have to suffer a loss such magnitude at the hands of a madman. This tragedy belongs to everyone. There are none among us, save the victims who can claim the higher ground. We all grieve with the great loss of life on that day. We have all shed tears and grieved together. We cannot heal or move forward as a State and Nation without confronting it head on. It is our responsibility and duty. This madman, Adam Lanza must not be allowed to define who we are, nor be allowed to define the millions of law abiding citizens who exercise the right to bear arms with great care and responsibility.

The work of this Task Force and the Legislature must not be clouded by emotion, ideology or the idea that we must abandon our shared foundational principles for a sense of safety. The plain truth is that gun control laws make those writing and passing the laws feel that they've done something meaningful, despite the fact that they do not deter crime. Not one of the current proposals would have stopped the madman Adam Lanza. Not one. This madman did not care about the law. He did not care any more than a criminal bent on home invasion, robbery or rape. We must remember that the most vile and despicable of our fellows DO NOT care about "The Law" and will not stop because of a law. Firearm Laws did not stop Adam Lanza. Firearms laws will not stop the next tragedy.

The current proposals cannot work to stop violent crime, assault, rape or even mass murder. Bans do not work. Bans work against only the law abiding. Madmen and criminals will always have access to the tools of destruction. Registration prevents nothing. No madman or street thug would register any weapon. To believe this is tantamount to believing in the Tooth Fairy or Santa Claus. History, statistics and evidence clearly show that firearm laws do not stop tragedy or the crime that occurs in our lives. There is no law that will stop a madman.

The law abiding firearms owners of ct and the nation are asked to give, to concede, to acquiesce. What are we given in return? Nothing save more requests to cede our rights. There is NO compromise, no balance in this apparently fact free environment.

YOU cannot protect my family. These proposals will not protect my or any other family from violence and criminals who do not pay attention to laws. You seem to want the people to be powerless in the face of violent crime. You are not our rulers; you are our ELECTED representatives who SERVE at the Will of The People. How dare you talk about taking away the 2nd amendment rights of law abiding citizens? We are all potential victims of merciless criminals that are illegally armed and who do not give a damn about gun control laws. Using the tyranny of the ideological majority to remove the humanity of self defense from the decent people of our state is absolutely despicable. You do not have the right to suppress firearms you just do not like.

So what do we do? Where is the "common sense"? The plain truth is that gun control laws make those writing and passing the laws feel that they've done something meaningful, despite the fact that they do not deter crime. The government failed to protect the lives of those at Sandy Hook. The mother of a mentally distressed man could not get the help she needed. We must address mental health issues. We must address crime in a meaningful way. Fixating on firearms does nothing. Focus on the bigger issues. Crime, poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, deteriorating inner cities and most importantly jobs. Do not take the easy way out to satisfy an ideological agenda.

In conclusion, I would like to add that nationwide the facts show that we must come to realize that most of the gun violence occurs in cities and states with the most gun control. Where is the "common sense" in that? The lesson is this, government is limited in its ability to protect the citizens of this state. It always has been, hence the Founders placing the 2nd Amendment in our Constitution. In these cases, the people need to have the power to protect themselves, a power that was sorely absent in Newtown.

Do not be on the wrong side of this issue. Do not put passion for government power and intrusion ahead of the safety of the American citizens, whether they are in their homes, schools, or anywhere else in which they are threatened by violent criminals and madmen armed not only with illegal weapons but also with contempt for the law.

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